



# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

### Vice President, Student Affairs

Columbia University seeks a forward-thinking, consensus building, highly influential student affairs expert to help develop, lead and implement policies and practices that support the University-wide student experience. The Vice President of Student Affairs will have these responsibilities within the [Office of University Life](#), which leads work on cross-school and University-level student affairs issues across Columbia's undergraduate and graduate schools, totaling over 32,000 students. Reporting to the [Executive Vice President, University Life](#), the Vice President will hold a key leadership position within the Office.



### The University

Columbia University is a private, Ivy League, research university in Upper Manhattan, New York City. Established in 1754 as King's College by royal charter of George II of Great Britain, Columbia is the oldest college in New York State and the fifth chartered institution of higher learning in the country, making it one of nine colonial colleges founded before the Declaration of Independence.

After the revolutionary war, King's College briefly became a state entity and was renamed Columbia College in 1784. A 1787 charter placed the institution under a private board of trustees before it was renamed Columbia University in 1896, when the campus was moved from Madison Avenue to its current location in Morningside Heights, occupying 32 acres of land. Columbia is one of the 14 founding members of the Association of American Universities and was the first school in the United States to grant the M.D. degree.

The University is organized into [16 schools and colleges](#). The University also has [global research centers](#) in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Paris, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Nairobi and Tunis. It has affiliations with several other institutions nearby, including Teachers College, Barnard College, and Union Theological Seminary, and offers joint undergraduate programs available through the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Sciences Po Paris, and the Juilliard School, among others. Columbia annually administers the Pulitzer Prize. In addition, nearly 200 [Centers and Institutes](#) conduct research and provide services on a vast range of topics, from AIDS treatment to youth violence prevention.

Notable alumni and former students (including those from King's College) include five founding fathers of the United States; nine justices of the United States Supreme Court; 29 Academy Award winners; and 29 heads of state, including three United States presidents. Additionally, some 100 Nobel laureates have been affiliated with Columbia as students, faculty, or staff.

## **Mission Statement**

Columbia University is one of the world's most important centers of research and, at the same time, is a distinctive and distinguished learning environment for undergraduates and graduate students in many scholarly and professional fields. The University recognizes the importance of its location in New York City and seeks to link its research and teaching to the vast resources of a great metropolis. It seeks to attract a diverse and international faculty and student body to support research and teaching on global issues, and to create academic relationships with many countries and regions. It expects all areas of the University to advance knowledge and learning at the highest level and to convey the products of its efforts to the world.

## **Rankings**

For more than 250 years, Columbia University has provided rigorous academics, a strong alumni network, and a multitude of opportunities to its students. Columbia University was ranked 3rd overall among U.S. national universities for 2019 by *U.S. News & World Report*. Individual colleges and schools are also regularly ranked among the nation's leading educational institutions. In *U.S. News & World Report's* 2019 edition, Columbia College was ranked 4th among U.S. colleges for 2019 by *Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education* and 3rd among Ivy League schools. Also in that edition, [Columbia Law School](#) was ranked 5th, the [Mailman School of Public Health](#) 5th, [Columbia Business School](#) 9th, the [College of Physicians and Surgeons](#) tied for 11th for research (and tied for 43rd for primary care), the [Graduate School of Arts](#) 6th, the [School of Nursing](#) tied for 11th, and the [Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science](#) (graduate) was ranked 12th.

In 2019, Columbia was ranked 16th in the world by *Academic Ranking of World Universities*, 16th in the world by *QS World University Rankings*, and 8th in the world by *U.S. News and World Report*.

## Campuses

### Morningside Heights

The majority of Columbia's undergraduate and graduate studies are conducted on the Morningside Heights campus which occupies more than six city blocks, or 32 acres, in Morningside Heights, New York City, a neighborhood that contains a number of academic institutions. Schools on the Morningside Campus include Columbia's three undergraduate schools (the College, Engineering and General Studies) and graduate and professional schools in architecture, planning and preservation; arts; arts and sciences; business; engineering; journalism; law; international and public affairs; professional studies; and social work. Almost two dozen undergraduate residence halls are located on campus or in Morningside Heights and the university owns over 7,800 apartments in Morningside Heights that provide housing primarily for faculty and graduate students.

Several buildings on the Morningside Heights campus are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. [Low Memorial Library](#), a [National Historic Landmark](#) and the centerpiece of the campus, is listed for its architectural significance. Also listed is [Pupin Hall](#), another National Historic Landmark, which houses the physics and astronomy departments. Philosophy Hall is listed as the site of the invention of FM radio. Here the first experiments on the fission of uranium were conducted by [Enrico Fermi](#). The uranium atom was split there ten days after the world's first atom-splitting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### Manhattanville Campus

The Manhattanville campus is a 17-acre site just north of Columbia's historic Morningside Heights campus and consists primarily of the four large blocks from 129<sup>th</sup> to 133<sup>rd</sup> Streets, between Broadway and Twelfth Avenue. The plan includes approximately 6.8 million square feet of space for teaching, research, underground parking, and support services. It features new facilities for civic, cultural, recreational, and commercial activity as well as a permanent site for the newly opened Columbia-supported public secondary school for math, science, and engineering. Its improved, pedestrian-friendly streets and new publicly accessible open spaces will reconnect West Harlem to the new Hudson River waterfront park.

The first phase of the campus, which was recently completed, includes: the Forum, Lenfest Center for the Arts, and the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, creating a new center for major research, convenings and public programs. New buildings are in development or in progress for Columbia Business School and the School of International and Public Affairs. Subsequent phases, to be completed over the next two decades, will emphasize interdisciplinary scholarship, including biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, systems biology, and urban and populations studies, as well as housing for graduate students and faculty. The new campus is designed to be a cluster of buildings that "encourages the University and community to engage with and strengthen one another."

## **Columbia University Irving Medical Center and New York Presbyterian Hospital**

Columbia's Irving Medical Center Campus is home to Columbia's dental, medical, nursing and public health schools. [New York-Presbyterian Hospital](#) is affiliated with the medical schools of both Columbia University and [Cornell University](#). According to *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Hospitals Honor Roll 2018-19" it is ranked tenth overall and third among university hospitals. Columbia's [medical school](#) has a strategic partnership with the [New York State Psychiatric Institute](#) and is affiliated with 19 other hospitals in the U.S. and four hospitals overseas. Health-related schools are located at the [Columbia University Irving Medical Center](#), a 20-acre campus located in the neighborhood of Washington Heights.

## **Student Body**

Columbia utilizes a semester-based academic calendar and has a rich history of providing students with quality education through small classes, stellar faculty, and enriching experiences in the exciting, cultural hub of Manhattan.

Students come to Columbia from all over the United States and the world, and are diverse in every imaginable way. The University has a total undergraduate enrollment of 8,186 and graduate enrollment of 19,847, with 43% of the student population identifying themselves as a minority and 36% born outside of the United States. The three undergraduate schools – Columbia College, Engineering, and General Studies – are among the most socioeconomically diverse top-tier undergraduate schools in the United States, and the graduate and professional schools likewise attract a socioeconomically diverse student body.

This diversity of the student body, as with the faculty and staff, reflects a deep institutional commitment to the institution's core values of inclusion and excellence. As President Bollinger has said, "Building a diverse university community is not the work of a moment. It requires sustained commitment, concerted effort, and the attention of us all."

Columbia has been called "the quintessential great urban university," and its student body has access not only to extraordinary and extensive array of on-campus academic offerings but also to New York City, the ultimate classroom. Students also have countless opportunities for research, internships, involvement in activities and clubs, and all else that Columbia and New York City have to offer.

As the birthplace of FM radio, the fields of genetics and anthropology, the nation's oldest literary magazine, and the first Black student advocacy group on a multi-racial campus, Columbia has carried on a tradition of both social and scientific innovation for over 250 years. Notable Columbians include Barack Obama, Isaac Asimov, Madeline Albright, Langston Hughes, Jack Kerouac, Dorothy Height, and many more spanning every professional field.

## **Athletics**

Columbia University athletics has a long history, with many accomplishments in athletic fields. The College sponsors varsity teams in 29 sports, compete in the NCAA Division 1 and is a member of the Ivy League. The Lions play home games at the 17,000-seat [Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium](#). The [Baker Athletics Complex](#) includes facilities for baseball, softball, soccer,

lacrosse, field hockey, tennis, track, and rowing, as well as the [Campbell Sports Center](#). The basketball, fencing, swimming & diving, volleyball, and wrestling programs are based at the Dodge Physical Fitness Center on the main campus. Students also enjoy opportunities to play club and intramural sports on both campuses and pursue a variety of recreational fitness opportunities.

## **President Lee Bollinger**

[Lee C. Bollinger](#) became Columbia University's nineteenth president in 2002. Under his leadership, Columbia stands again at the very top rank of great research universities, distinguished by comprehensive academic excellence, historic institutional development, an innovative and sustainable approach to global engagement, and unprecedented levels of alumni involvement and financial stability.

President Bollinger is Columbia's first Seth Low Professor of the University, a member of the [Columbia Law School](#) faculty, and one of the country's foremost First Amendment scholars. Each fall semester, he teaches "Freedom of Speech and Press" to Columbia undergraduate students. His newest book, [The Free Speech Century](#), co-edited with Geoffrey R. Stone, was published in 2018 by Oxford University Press.

As president of the University of Michigan, Bollinger led the school's historic litigation in *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*, Supreme Court decisions that upheld and clarified the importance of diversity as a compelling justification for affirmative action in higher education. He speaks and writes frequently about the value of racial, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity to American society through opinion columns, media interviews, and public appearances around the country.

## **Diversity and Inclusion Commitment**

Columbia is dedicated to increasing diversity in its workforce, its student body, and its educational programs. Both to prepare students for citizenship in a pluralistic world and to keep Columbia at the forefront of knowledge, the University seeks to recognize and draw upon the talents of a diverse range of outstanding faculty, research officers, staff, and students and to foster the free exploration and expression of differing ideas, beliefs, and perspectives through scholarly inquiry and civil discourse. In fulfilling its mission to advance diversity at the University, Columbia seeks to hire, retain, and promote exceptionally talented individuals from different racial, cultural, economic and ethnic backgrounds and values diversity in gender, sexual orientation and disability status. Through effective and fully compliant affirmative action and equal opportunity policies, Columbia strives to recruit members of groups traditionally underrepresented in American higher education and to increase the number of minority and women candidates in its graduate and professional programs.

## **The Office of University Life**

The Office of University Life was established in January 2015 and is charged with providing institutional leadership and infrastructure dedicated to the University-wide student experience. University Life serves as a focal point for University-wide student interests and cross-school

student-life issues, elevates these interests and issues within the central administration, and provides a primary place of engagement for students on issues of campus-wide concern.

Reporting to President Bollinger, Suzanne Goldberg leads the Office as Executive Vice President. The Office works collaboratively across all of Columbia's undergraduate and graduate schools with the goal of creating and supporting a University-wide student community rooted in the shared values of mutual respect, community citizenship, and intellectual growth. To build this sense of community across such a large institution, the Office of University Life works collaboratively with student affairs offices and central services across the University, together with students, faculty and staff from all schools, to build and implement programs and initiatives that address areas of need in the Columbia student community, including on important issues of inclusion and belonging, sexual respect, and wellness among others.

University Life has developed a strategic plan and is pursuing these key priorities in service of their mission.

1. Identify and address evolving student needs and campus climate concerns across schools;
2. Foster collaboration and innovation among student-facing services to enhance the student experience;
3. Promote a flourishing and connected university-wide student community.

EVP Suzanne Goldberg is seeking a thought partner with exceptional organizational and management skills to help lead the department and achieve the strategic priorities of the Office.

## **The Opportunity**

A newly created position, the Vice President, Student Affairs will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with colleagues and students across the University on the full range of important issues that affect the non-academic student experience, and to establish a strong operation that is dedicated to supporting and implementing University-wide student services and resources. Through developing, guiding and implementing programs, initiatives and operations, this position will have a significant impact on the Columbia-wide student experience.

This is an exciting opportunity for a senior student affairs professional to provide thought leadership to shape the student experience over the next decade, establish and promote innovative practices, and partner with a vast and experienced student affairs staff in schools and a wide range of central administrative units to support a dynamic and diverse student experience at Columbia.

## **Key Opportunities for the Vice President for Student Affairs**

The Vice President, Student Affairs will develop strong relationships with deans of students and student affairs leadership in each school, student-affinity groups, interested faculty, leaders of centralized student resources and other key constituencies throughout the University. This individual will be an effective and experienced strategist, with the capacity to implement University-wide programming related to student affairs, identify and deploy national best practices, and drive consistent policies as appropriate.

The Vice President will help direct communication and promotion of the Office of University Life's mission, values, and services related to student affairs. The Vice President must be comfortable working in a fast-paced, fluid and exciting environment with high performance expectations. This role is positioned to utilize creativity, resourcefulness and leadership skills to strengthen the university-wide student experience at Columbia.

The offices reporting directly to the Vice President area as follows:

**University Life's Student Life team** leads University Life's work on cross-school student-life issues, including on inclusion and belonging, the Sexual Respect and Community Citizenship Initiative, other student-oriented community-citizenship events and programs, the University Life Events Council – a cross-school committee of students who arrange programming for the student community throughout the academic year, and the Interschool Governing Board (a student-led body that oversees cross-school organizations comprised predominantly of graduate students).

**Student Conduct and Community Standards** is charged with working with students, faculty and staff to investigate and resolve incidents of academic, behavioral and gender-based misconduct through a collaborative, educational and reflective process. This office oversees University policies related to gender-based misconduct, offers case management services to students, partners with schools on a variety of student conduct matters, and maintains the University database for conduct matters.

This role will also work closely and collaboratively across the University with all central student services, including: Student Financial Services, the Office of the Registrar, International Students and Scholars Office, Columbia Health that encompasses Disability Services, Medical Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, Alice! Health Promotion and Sexual Violence Response, Campus Services as well as Student Health Services at CUIMC and the Center for Student Wellness at CUIMC, and Public Safety. The VPSA will serve as a resource in navigating University-level student life issues, including those related to student mental health and well-being.

In addition to these oversight and collaborative responsibilities, the Vice President, Student Affairs will be responsible for regularly evaluating the role of University Life based on the shifting priorities of the University and the changing needs of students in higher education.

University Life has a collaborative management structure to ensure maximum coordination on projects and planning as a complement to direct reporting lines. Within this structure, the Vice President, Student Affairs will work closely with the Executive Vice President, the Chief of Staff and the Assistant Vice Presidents whose portfolios include diversity, inclusion, campus climate, and community standards.

## **Key Responsibilities**

- Convening and providing leadership for deans of students at all schools to elevate and strengthen the student experience, including sharing of best practices, problem-solving and building and supporting community.
- Providing leadership on cross-school policy and resource issues in a variety of areas (e.g. policies regarding leaves of absence and other student support, student survey administration, financial literacy, conflict resolution, etc.), including convening appropriate colleagues to implement short-term strategies and long-term solutions when issues arise with cross-school impact.
- Leading, with the Executive Vice President, University Life's work in connection with student well-being (mental health and wellness), including enhancing coordination among relevant central services, faculty experts, and school-based initiatives.
- Leading, with the Executive Vice President, University Life's work to strengthen civic and global-center engagement opportunities for students at the University level.
- Ensuring the division is led with fiscal responsibility and efficiency.
- Understanding and providing strategic guidance on the changing dynamics within the University and higher education more generally, with flexibility and capacity to both address current needs and envision, develop and implement future-oriented planning and projects.

## **Key Attributes**

- Leader with depth of experience and excellent judgment in student affairs operations and management
- Strong management, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Deep commitment to and experience with developing and implementing operations or initiatives that promote a truly diverse and inclusive community.
- Proactive thinker who can understand and address large-scale systems challenges
- Solutions-oriented and evidence-based problem solver with experience creating, implementing and evaluating programs
- Strong analytical thinker with deep knowledge of student life issues - including current issues, best practices and future trends
- Deft relationship manager keen on building strong relationships across the University and adept at building consensus among multiple stakeholders on complex issues
- Cares deeply about the student experience at the macro-level

## **Preferred Experience**

- Change management and implementation
- Leadership role within a complex, decentralized University
- Deep knowledge of best practices in the area of student well-being
- Advanced degree required

Please send nominations, inquiries, and expressions of interest to:

**Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Managing Partner**

**Tammarah Townes, Managing Associate**

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For more information, visit <https://www.columbia.edu/> and <https://universitylife.columbia.edu/>.

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